

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method of checking the accuracy of a pseudorandom bit sequence (PRBS), wherein a first PRBS is generated at a PRBS generator, including a first shift register chain, and presented to a device under test, and the device under test generates a second PRBS in response to the first PRBS, the method comprising the steps of:

    delaying the second PRBS in a second shift register chain that corresponds to the first shift register chain to generate a delayed second PRBS;

    detecting the presence of an error bit in the second PRBS by comparing the delayed second PRBS at an intermediate point in the second shift register chain with the second PRBS; and

    prohibiting propagation of the detected error bit such that the detected error bit does not further propagate through the second shift register chain.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the prohibition step serves to avoid at least one of multiple errors being counted for a single error occurrence and masking errors in the second PRBS.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the prohibition step further comprises correcting the error bit.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of detecting the non-presence of a PRBS from the device under test.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the device under test is one of a communication circuit and a communication channel.

6. through 17. (Canceled)